

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish over Tomlin, U.S. Patent No. 6,488,551. Tomlin does not show or suggest displaceable tabs that are moveable out of the plane of the connector body. In fact, Tomlin only inferentially teaches that any portion of his flat terminals 16 or 116 is displaceable at all. The inference comes from the description of the terminals as “press-fit” (Col. 4, lines 37, 48, 55 and 59) and the drawings that show prongs 16b close to one another and the blades 24a that fit between the prongs. However, Fig. 6A also shows that whatever flexing there is of the prongs 16b, it is in the plane of the terminal, not out of the plane as set forth in amended claim 1.

Claim 4 has been amended to more clearly point out the structure of the folding tabs. These tabs are now stated to be formed by folding a portion of the planar body back onto itself. There is nothing of this nature in Tomlin. The same thing is true of the curled end recited in claim 5.

Claim 6 has been amended by combining it with the subject matter of claim 7. Claim 7 has been cancelled. The amended claim 6 calls for retention tabs on the connector and holes in the carrier for receiving the retention tabs. Tomlin’s flat terminals 16, 116 clearly have no retention tabs, nor do the insulation plates 110, 112 have any holes for receiving such tabs. Amended claim 6 is allowable over Tomlin.

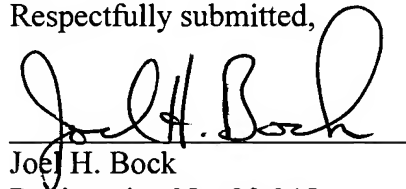
The retention tab slots in the substrate carrier called for in claim 9 are not found in Tomlin. Claims 12 and 13 describe the folding tabs and are allowable on the same basis as claims 4 and 5.

Claim 14 has been added. It recites that the width of the tabs is at least as great as that of the terminal blade. This provides as greater contact surface between the blade and terminal and reduces the current density at the interface of the blade and terminal.

For the above-stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of the present application are in an allowable condition and are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are patentable thereover. Accordingly, it is requested that the claims be passed to allowance.

It is believed that no fee is due on account of this amendment. However, if any fee should be due for this amendment, please charge our deposit account No. 50-1039.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe H. Bock", written over a horizontal line.

Joe H. Bock
Registration No. 29,045

COOK, ALEX, McFARRON, MANZO,
CUMMINGS & MEHLER, LTD.
200 West Adams Street - Suite 2850
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 236-8500
Attorney Docket No: 1107-0003